



## CHICAGOLAND ASSOCIATION OF GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS

### Verdure Newsletter

August 2006

Rick Bowden  
Dan Dinelli, CGCS  
Dan Charlton  
Jon Jennings, CGCS  
Tommy Witt, CGCS  
Dan Marco, CGCS

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Vice President / Forum  
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### Upcoming Events

#### Chicagoland Meetings:

September 20 - Bryn Mawr Country Club                      Brian Bossert, CGCS  
October 9 - Park Ridge Country Club (Founders Cup)      Joel Purpur, CGCS

#### August Meeting:

Our meeting was held August 22 at The Indian Hill Club in Winnetka. Dave Schlagetter, CGCS was our host for the evening. Dave and the entire staff at Indian Hill once again provided our group with a terrific venue and a fabulous meal. We had a turnout of 17 people which included 6 guests. Kris Bachtell from the Morton Arboretum was our featured speaker that evening. Kris provided very timely information regarding the Emerald Ash Borer. This insect has been the cause for destroying millions of ash trees in Michigan. So far this year it has been found in Lake and Kane counties. This month's e-Verdure will focus upon imported tree insects and the devastation they can cause.



*August 22, 2006 CAGCS meeting at The Indian Hill Club.*

## **Emerald Ash Borer**

Kris Bachtell of the Morton Arboretum was our featured speaker for the August CAGCS meeting. Kris spoke on the emerald ash borer and the fact that it has been identified in the Chicagoland area. The story of the Emerald Ash Borer, (*Agrilus planipennis*) begins in Asia where it is a native. It traveled to the United States within the wood of packing crates carrying auto parts destined for Detroit. The emerald ash borer is a small ½ inch long, 1/8 inch wide metallic green beetle. An article appearing in this week's Chicago Tribune is posted below.

## **Trees doomed in bid to stop pest**

**2,800 will fall in Kane to thwart ash borer; North Shore is next**

**By Michael Hawthorne and Meg McSherry Breslin**

Tribune staff reporters

Published September 15, 2006.

The towering ash trees survived years of harsh winters and hot summers, only to be felled by a tiny green insect. With chain saws buzzing, crews soon will move methodically in and around a heavily wooded Kane County subdivision, chewing up more than 2,800 ash trees around the spot where the emerald ash borer first was found in Illinois. That is nearly double the total number of trees taken out by the Asian longhorned beetle, another imported pest that ravaged the North Side of Chicago in the late 1990s. The ax will fall next on Evanston, Wilmette and Winnetka, cutting into the leafy canopy of three other areas where the ravenous ash borer has turned up since June. And state officials fear the scenario could be repeated again and again across Illinois, home to more than 130 million ash trees. "The ash borer is a better traveler, and it's much more difficult to detect," said Mark Cinnamon, manager of nursery and northeastern field operations for the Illinois Department of Agriculture. "It's a real challenge for us." State and federal officials spent the summer scouring a 2-square-mile area west of St. Charles for ash trees. Most of the 2,800 trees they found will be cut down by spring to try to keep the beetle from spreading, though a few trees in densely forested areas may be spared.

Officials still haven't figured out who will pick up the tab for the cutting. About 1,700 of the trees marked for destruction are either on private property or public rights of way. State law says it's up to individual homeowners to pay for tree removals on their property, but officials say they are working out a plan to pay the crews with a combination of local, state and federal money. How that debate is resolved is of keen interest to residents in The Windings of Ferson Creek subdivision, a picturesque community of 380 homes near St. Charles. Many of the homeowners were attracted to the subdivision's wooded surroundings and rolling hills. They're still grappling with the loss of prime foliage, and the idea that they could be saddled with expensive bills to rid their neighborhood of an exotic invader. For some, it's especially difficult to accept the state's decision because their ash trees still look healthy. Two huge ash trees stand on Pat Greenberg's wooded lot on Arboretum Lane, one towering more than 100 feet along her driveway, another at the center of her back yard. Though the trees still look lush, state officials told Greenberg they are likely to come down under the eradication plan. Greenberg personally planted her trees after moving into the home nearly 30 years ago. The old trees feel like members of the family. "We feel terrible," she said Friday from under the shade of the backyard ash. "It's not just the beauty that's lost when they're cut. It changes the whole landscape." The ash borer turned up in Illinois as authorities declared victory in their fight against the Asian longhorned beetle, a battle that cost taxpayers more than \$75 million.

In July, authorities lifted the quarantine that eradicated longhorned beetles in Chicago. By the time the campaign was over, 1,500 trees had been felled, stripped of their limbs and fed into chippers. The ash borer is proving to be an even more difficult foe. The longhorned beetles were relatively easy to spot, with their long, black antennae and distinctive white spots. They also were large enough that the holes adult beetles crawled out of were obvious signs that a tree was infested.

By contrast, it can take several years before the damage caused by the emerald ash borer is evident. The tiny green bugs typically attack the top of a tree first. And by the time branches start to die, it usually is too late to save the tree. Some chemical treatments are available for healthy trees, but the pesticides are worthless if ash borers already are burrowing their way beneath the bark.

The only proven way to snuff out the bugs is to cut down every ash within a half-mile of an infested tree. The ash borer already is responsible for the death and destruction of nearly 20 million trees in five states and parts of Canada. It first was discovered four years ago in suburban Detroit, where authorities believe it arrived in wooden packing materials. Like the longhorned beetle, the ash borer is native to Asia. People helped the ash borer spread by moving infested firewood and nursery stock.

Greenberg is comforted by the fact that ash trees account for just about 5 percent of the tree population in the Windings. "As long as it's funded, we'll go along with the plan," said Greenberg, a member of the subdivision's homeowners association. "But if it's not funded, all bets are off." Bill Miller, the association's president, said the project is of special concern because many of the ash trees are in a heavily forested common area. If forced to pick up that tab, the homeowners association could go bankrupt, he said.

"The money flows pretty fast on these types of projects," Miller said. "We're realists and we know that there's the possibility that [some] of this would have to come out of our own pockets." Frustration has led to some contentious community meetings over the last few months. Even after state officials told residents not to touch their trees, one homeowner chopped down two ashes in his back yard, Miller said. Another woman with 20 ashes told a state official she would do all she could to defend her trees, he said. But the majority of residents are more resigned to the coming change in landscape. "It's important to save the rest of the trees in Illinois," Miller said. "We realize we have a role to play."

An expert panel has recommended removing thousands of ash trees from about two square miles of Kane County to prevent the spread of the tree-killing emerald ash borer, state officials announced Friday. More than 2,800 ash trees grow in the targeted area, including about 1,700 on private property and public roadways. About 150 trees are thought to be infested in the rural area.

Tree cutting is not expected to begin until the ground freezes to lessen damage to terrain from heavy equipment, said Illinois Department of Agriculture spokesman Jeff Squibb. "It could be December or even January," Squibb said. Before tree cutting begins, the Illinois Department of Agriculture plans to peel bark from trees growing outside the boundary of the removal area in a search for beetle larvae. That survey is intended to make sure the infestation is confined to the area where the beetle first was discovered in June.

The state also must get federal approval before removing the trees. "We plan to remove as much of the ash tree population in an infested area as possible while minimizing damage to the surrounding area," said Warren Goetsch, an agriculture department official, in a news release announcing the plan.

The panel made no recommendations for Cook County, although the beetle has been found north of Chicago in Wilmette, Evanston and Winnetka. The panel also advised the adoption of a state law to regulate the movement of firewood, which could speed the spread of the pest.



*Typical crown decline of an ash tree when infested with emerald ash borer.*



*"D" shaped exit holes on bark from the beetle*



*Emerald ash borer D shaped pupa cells with Bark removed from ash tree.*



*Adult emerald ash borer*

If you think you may have emerald ash borer, call the national EAB hotline (866)EAB-4512 or the Morton Arboretum Plant Clinic at (630)719-2424

## Another bug attacks Michigan's trees

As if the news of the emerald ash borer was not enough, news of a new tree threat is brought forward from again, Michigan. Woolly adelgid is a pest we dealt with when I lived on the east coast. It was unheard of in Connecticut until Hurricane Gloria blew it over from Long Island in 1982. Our experience showed that if left untreated, hemlock trees would parish under the wrath of the insect. However, if sprayed, the trees would have the ability to withstand the insect. Please read the article below for information on the woolly adelgid.

HARBOR SPRINGS, Mich. -- The Michigan Department of Agriculture says yet another potentially devastating insect is infesting some of the state's trees. The hemlock woolly adelgid has been attacking hemlock trees, which are popular landscape evergreens and an important component of hardwood forests in northern Michigan.

A landscaper recently alerted officials about white, cottony masses on hemlocks that had been planted in 2003 at four sites in Harbor Springs. The trees came from the same nursery in West Virginia. It marks the first time the insect has been discovered on Michigan's native hemlock trees, the Detroit Free Press reported Wednesday.

The hemlock woolly adelgid is among the most serious exotic forest insect pests to have entered Michigan, Deborah McCullough, a forest entomologist at Michigan State University, told the newspaper. Their arrival comes on the heels of the emerald ash borer, which is blamed for the loss of nearly 20 million trees in Indiana, Ohio, Michigan and neighboring Ontario since it first was found near Detroit in 2002.

Experts from the state agriculture and natural resources departments and from Michigan State are working on a plan to eliminate the hemlock woolly adelgid, which could cause some trees to be destroyed while others will be treated with insecticide. Agriculture officials also are trying to track where 1,900 hemlocks imported to northern Michigan from out-of-state growers are located and whether the trees are healthy. The insect is transported by wind, people and animals.

### **Bob Williams**

To follow up with the information Brad Anderson provided for the last e-Verdure, Bruce Williams, CGCS at Los Angeles Country Club sent an update regarding his fathers condition a couple of weeks ago:

“I just visited my Dad over the Labor Day weekend. All things considered he is holding up well after having 2 strokes in the last couple of years. He moves pretty quickly with his walker and has very pleasant memories of his friends and involvement in the industry. While he may struggle to remember what you told him 5 minutes ago....he is very sharp with great recall for the past.

Dad’s hearing has failed in recent years and he is dependent on hearing aids. Sometimes they work well and sometimes they don’t. It depends on how he has them set and also the batteries. Should anyone ever call him you will be able to tell right away if they are working or not. I speak to my Dad every day and have about an 80% success rate of communicating.

Dad’s eyes have failed a bit so he does not read much anymore and he only occasionally watches TV. He looks out the window and watches the wildlife that abounds outside of his apartment. The Assisted Care facility is very nice and he enjoys being there. They take real good care of him. My brother has a caregiver come in 3 days per week to keep my Dad company. He really enjoys that. My oldest daughter, Claire (20), lives nearby and visits Dad weekly. She is attending Lake Forest College.

Bob Williams will reach his 92<sup>nd</sup> birthday on the 26<sup>th</sup> of September. A few people have asked me for his address so they could send a card. I am sure he would love to get some cards from his many friends that he has made over the years.

Here is his address:

Bob Williams  
1065 Victory Dr.  
#223  
Lindenhurst, IL 60046  
1-847-265-3220

For those interested in visiting Bob Williams, call Brad Anderson at 847/249-1956

### **Host a CAGCS Meeting**

We have been fortunate to have been provided with some fantastic venues to hold our meetings the last couple of years. It does not take a lot of effort to host a meeting and is very rewarding. Please consider hosting a monthly meeting at your facility. The meetings consist of cocktails, dinner and valuable roundtable discussions. If you are interested in hosting a meeting or would like to obtain further information, please contact Dan Marco, CGCS either by telephone, (630)986-4476 or via email [ruthlakecc@aol.com](mailto:ruthlakecc@aol.com) . Dan has a few remaining spots to fill for the year.

### **Web Site**

The Chicagoland Association of Golf Course Superintendents has a new web site. Launched March 14, 2006, the web site is in its preliminary stage of introduction and growth. You will be able to check upcoming monthly meeting venues and see all the new information for the Association. Please visit [www.cagcs.org](http://www.cagcs.org) . If you would like to add something to the web site or have a suggestion, please email Jon Jennings [chicagogolfclub@aol.com](mailto:chicagogolfclub@aol.com) . The web site was created to assist members obtain useful information.

### **e-Verdure**

If you would like to contribute to the Verdure or have some information you feel others would gain benefit, please contact Jon Jennings, [chicagogolfclub@aol.com](mailto:chicagogolfclub@aol.com) . The Verdure is another great way to disseminate information to our membership. By sending it electronically, the information is very current. The deadline for submitting information for the upcoming issue is the second Monday of each month.

### **Chicagoland Association of Golf Course Superintendents Shirts**

The 2006 edition CAGCS golf shirts are in. Be sure to pick up one of these handsome short sleeved shirts. The CAGCS logo is embroidered on the left chest. The price of these good looking shirts is \$45.00. You have the option of being billed for the shirt(s) or paying upon receipt. They are available in red, black, blue, yellow and white. You may obtain one at a monthly meeting or contact Dan Charlton,